

BINGO AND SOCIAL GAMES OREGON LAW AND GRESHAM REVISED CODE

The City of Gresham authorizes the playing of bingo and social games if done in accordance with the Oregon Revised Statutes and the Gresham Revised Code.

OREGON LAW

ORS 167.117(1) Bingo or lotto (Definition) “Bingo or lotto” means a game, played with cards bearing lines of numbers, in which a player covers or uncovers a number selected from a container, and which is won by a player who is present during the game and who first covers or uncovers the selected numbers in a designated combination, sequence or pattern.

ORS 167.117(21) Social Games (Definition) “Social game” means: ***

(b) If authorized pursuant to ORS 167.121, a game, other than a lottery, between players in a private business, private club or place of public accommodation where no house player, house bank or house odds exist and there is no house income from the operation of the social game.

ORS 167.121 Local regulation of social games. Counties and cities may, by ordinance, authorize the playing or conducting of a social game in a private business, private club or in a place of public accommodation. Such ordinances may provide for regulation or licensing of the social games authorized.

ATTORNEY GENERAL’S OPINION SUMMARY CONCLUSION (01/22/2010)

Private businesses, private clubs or places of public accommodation that allow social games and their personnel may not: (a) derive any income from the game (including charging cover, usage or rental charges for the place or equipment), or extract any money directly from the participants other than for the sale of food and drink on the same terms as all other patrons (even if an establishment sells food and drink on the same terms to all patrons, if it charges inflated prices in relation to other similar establishments and its only patrons are social game players that may be evidence that the establishment is in fact making income from operation of social games); (b) compete or bet in the game; (c) act as “banker,” by being involved in the financial aspects of a social game, including selling, keeping and redeeming chips even if it makes no profit from doing so; or (d) have any advantage or set the ratio between the payout and bet amount;

- Anyone who attempts to operate a social game for profit – no matter where – will be deemed to be the “house” and subject to the same prohibitions;
- A person who invites friends in for a social game in the person’s home may bet in the game as long as the person is not operating the game for profit and may arrange the game and provide the necessary equipment as long as the person receives no fee or remuneration for doing so and plays on equal terms with the other players;
- Any social game players who deal in a game where the dealer has an inherent advantage, such as blackjack, must pass the deal and receive no fee or remuneration for dealing; and,
- All persons who bet in a social game must stand to gain only their own personal gambling winnings and no other profit from the game.

CALL ORE. STATE POLICE, GAMING DIV. WITH QUESTIONS: 503-378-6999

SEE REVERSE FOR CITY OF GRESHAM REGULATIONS

**BINGO AND SOCIAL GAMES
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GRESHAM REVISED CODE

9.35.010 Bingo and Social Games. The city authorizes the playing or conducting of bingo and social games in accordance with state law by non-profit charitable, fraternal and religious organizations that have received recognition by the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) of exempt status under sections 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(8) of the IRS Code.

9.35.020 License Required. (1) No person shall conduct the playing of bingo or social games without having a social games license issued by the manager. ***

9.35.030 Application. The application shall be made on a form provided by the manager and shall include payment of the required fee and proof of written determination by the IRS of exempt status.

For definitions of bingo and social games, see reverse definitions under State Law.

APPLYING FOR A GRESHAM SOCIAL GAMES LICENSE

To apply for a social games license, a person must submit:

- an application
- proof of written determination by the IRS of exempt status under 501(c)(3) or 501(c)(8) of the IRS Code, and
- payment of the social games license fee.

Licenses are valid for the term of the person's business license and must be renewed annually.

NOTE: **All social games operations in Gresham must comply with Oregon law. Issuance of a social games license in no way signifies or represents that a person is operating its social game in compliance with Oregon law. Failure to comply with Oregon law will result in revocation of the social games license and any other enforcement or legal action permissible under the law.**

Contact Gresham Business Licensing with questions: 503- 503-618-2370

SEE REVERSE FOR STATE OF OREGON REGULATIONS